

They have developed partnerships with Memorial North Park Hospital, Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Angel Food Ministries, Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School, Smokey Mountain Children's Home, Church of God Chaplains Commission, Church of God World Missions, Operation Christmas Child, and various other organizations. In addition, the church hosts a grief support group through Legacy Funeral Services and serves as a voting precinct for the Hamilton County Election Commission. They soon hope to host a community meeting to address the methamphetamine crisis our region is currently battling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking the congregation of Middle Valley Church of God and Pastor Mitch McClure for 60 years of commitment to their faith and service to the local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK
FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONT-
GOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS 15TH ANNUAL CON-
FERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation for the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, Maryland. The Task Force is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crucial services such as mentor training, volunteer mentor recruitment, and organizational and technical support to community organizations and institutions that work to develop mentoring programs.

For over 15 years the Task Force has been a pillar of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has joined us in the battle against gang-related violence through its day-to-day efforts and its upcoming annual conference entitled "Challenging the Gang Lifestyle—Strategies for Prevention." The conference will be held on the Rockville Campus of Johns Hopkins University on October 12, 2006.

Thanks to the tireless and steadfast efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's children and adolescents have been given a real opportunity to become positive, active, and socially conscious citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fifteenth annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
SKIVINGTON, SR., AND WILLIAM
SKIVINGTON, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr., for their service in the United States Armed Forces. William, Sr., and

William, Jr., are being honored today at Nellis Air Force Base as part of the 2006 POW/MIA National Recognition Day ceremonies.

Private First Class William Skivington, Jr., or "Skip" as most referred to him, disappeared on Mother's Day in 1968 during a ground battle near the Laotian border. Thirty-eight years after being declared missing-in-action, his remains have finally been returned to his family. A graduate of Western High School, William, Jr., was presumed killed or captured after his observation post at Kham Duc was overrun by a brigade of North Vietnamese soldiers and Viet Cong. For his bravery and service William, Jr., was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and a number of medals from the Government of Vietnam, he will be laid to rest with his fellow American heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

William, Jr., learned the value and honor of service from his father, William, Sr., who served our country with bravery and nobility in the European Theater during World War II. For his valor, William, Sr., was highly also decorated. I applaud Bill not only for his service to this country, but also for his support for all prisoners of war and missing in action and their families, and his dedication to his son, William, Jr. He is currently raising money to preserve an olive tree, The Freedom Tree, which was planted in 1972 and dedicated to his son, and all POW/MIA.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr. Their service in our Nation's armed services is admirable and shows that they are both true patriots and American heroes.

HONORING NATIONAL
GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Grandparents Day. Designated as the first Sunday following Labor Day of every year, Grandparents Day began in 1979 by a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter. Unfortunately the vital work of grandparents frequently goes unrecognized and underappreciated. Not only do grandparents provide ties to our past, they often times provide care to the Nation's children.

Grandparents make up 5.7 million households living with over 6.1 million children, evidence that many of these grandparents are often times caring for more than one child. It is important to note that 42 percent of grandparent caregivers are the sole providers for the most basic needs of one or more of the children in their custody. Alarming, 35.8 percent of grandchildren under the age of 18 live in homes with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or other form of public assistance, and 460,000 of these grandparent led households fall below the poverty line.

Chicago, alone, is the home to three of the top ten congressional districts for children living in the homes of grandparents or other relatives. In my congressional district there are 23,397 grandparents living with grandchildren and over ten thousand grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren's needs; indeed the 7th District of Illinois, my congres-

sional district, has the highest percentage of children living in kinship care in the entire Nation. Not only does my district have the highest incidence of grandparent-headed households in the Nation, it also has a disproportionate number of African American grandparent caregivers, around 82 percent of all grandparent-headed households. It is an unfortunate fact that the problem of grandparent-headed households disproportionately affects African-American grandparents who serve as kinship care providers at higher rates than other racial/ethnic groups; a fact that federal policies need to understand and address.

B.C. Forbes said, "Upon our children—how they are taught—rests the fate—or fortune—of tomorrow's world." The fate of our children and their future lies with the millions of grandparents who tirelessly raise their grandchildren. Grandparent-headed households are an unrelenting force on our Nation's children and deserve our gratitude and support.

FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA CON-
GRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this legislation to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. His Holiness is a spiritual beacon for thousands, and he has traveled the world to develop common ground among different faiths. He stands for and embodies peace and harmony.

I also honor the Dalai Lama for his continuing work to expand freedoms for the Tibetan people. Under Chinese rule, the human rights situation in Tibet is reprehensible—religious and political freedoms are severely curtailed and thousands of Tibetans have died. Practicing compassion and non-violence, the Dalai Lama has met with world leaders and has attempted to engage the Chinese government to reach a solution that will give freedom to his people. Regrettably, the Chinese government has been stubborn in its resistance, but I hope they will soon have a change of mind and heart about the situation in Tibet.

As a spiritual force and as a head of state, the Dalai Lama shows us all the meaning of peace and compassion. He deserves this honor, and I thank the leadership for bringing the bill before us.

"ART ON LABELS" CONTEST
WINNERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two outstanding young students who live and go to school in my district in Houston, Texas. Alejandra Garcia, 10, of Crockett Elementary School and Alina Arevalo, 8, of Sherman Elementary School recently won a national art competition in support of afterschool programs called the

"Art on Labels" contest, sponsored by Torani, the specialty syrup maker, and the Afterschool Alliance, an organization dedicated to advocating for quality and affordable afterschool programs for all children by 2010. The girls' artwork was chosen from hundreds of entries nationwide and will be featured on two of Torani's soda syrup products this fall.

Both students attend the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment program and were encouraged to enter the contest by their afterschool teacher. Afterschool programs play a critical role in the lives of many students who need a safe and nurturing place to go after the school bell rings. In communities today, 14.3 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million middle school students in grades six to eight. Just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs—but the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate in afterschool—if a program were available.

Afterschool programs keep children engaged in learning and work to find students' hidden talents as an alternative to going home alone to watch television all afternoon. It is important to continue to support afterschool programs like the ones Alejandra and Alina attend, which increase academic achievement, keep kids safe, and help working families.

It is an honor to be able to congratulate two wonderful young ladies, Alejandra and Alina, for their tremendous accomplishments and to thank their afterschool program providers for helping to develop their talents.

INTRODUCING BILL TO ESTABLISH MINERAL COMMODITY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this bill to establish the Mineral Commodity Information Administration in the Department of the Interior.

This bill would make the Mineral Information Team (MIT) with the United States Geological Service an independent agency in the Department of the Interior, with much the same character as the Energy Information Agency housed in the Department of Energy.

The MIT collects and disseminates data on virtually every commercially important non-fuel mineral commodity produced worldwide, information that is critical to businesses, the government, and importantly, the Department of Defense (DOD) to help manage the National Defense Stockpile. Due to the importance of the data, the MIT should be an independent agency reporting to the Secretary of the Interior.

Virtually every manufacturing sector, from aviation to textiles, relies on the unbiased, thorough, and comprehensive data reported by the MIT. This data is essential for effective use of our natural resources and for accurate forecasting. The information for a number of the MIT reports is derived from proprietary information given by our members precisely because the government is a trusted third party.

The United States is the world's largest user of mineral commodities, with processed mate-

rials of mineral origin accounting for over \$487 billion in the economy in 2005 (an increase of 8 percent over 2004 on top of an increase of over 13 percent in 2003).

In 2002, the administration's FY 2003 budget proposed to eliminate the collection of international mineral commodity information. The attempts to eliminate international mineral commodity information collection have continued with each subsequent budget proposal. The congressional appropriations committees have wisely continued to reject calls to eliminate this critical data.

This information from the MIT is critical to the effective use of the nation's natural resources and for accurate forecasting. Without a reliable source of worldwide commodity information, the U.S. would be blind to any impending supply shortages. MIT data was critical in calming the markets during the cement and steel shortages of 2004, identifying the problem as one of logistics, not supply.

Our Nation is facing a global resources future where we are more dependent than ever on foreign sources of energy and minerals while at the same time no longer "guaranteed" to be the major recipient of energy and minerals from our traditional foreign suppliers. Considering businesses operate in a global economy, and imported raw and processed mineral materials increased in value by more than 14 percent from 2005 to \$103 billion, the comprehensive data provided by the MIT becomes ever more important.

Clearly the Federal government understands the importance of worldwide data on energy production as demonstrated by the increased funding for the Energy Information Administration. Currently, the continued viability and availability of mineral commodity information is mired in the bureaucracy and under budgetary assault. It is imperative that the importance of the MIT mission be recognized by establishing it as an independent agency of the Department of the Interior.

This is the goal that my bill will accomplish. The mission of the newly created Mineral Commodity Information Administration will be to continue to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on the domestic and international supply of and demand for minerals and mineral materials essential to the U.S. economy and national security.

CONGRATULATING THE LUTHER BURBANK SCHOOL DISTRICT ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Luther Burbank School District in San Jose, California on its 100th anniversary.

Luther Burbank School District's noble mission is to educate students from kindergarten to eighth grade. Although diversity is welcomed, significant challenges confront this public school system. In the 2003–2004 school year 85 percent of the students were Hispanic, 5 percent Black and 7 percent White. Of all the District's students, 78 percent participated in the National School Lunch Program and 64 percent of the students were

English Language Learners. Despite the challenges to comprehensive multicultural and multilingual education, Luther Burbank School District has met the challenges of racial, ethnic and religious diversity within the public school system.

Over the past 5 years, Luther Burbank School District has increased its California Academic Performance Index by over 200 points, thereby exceeding the state average. As the test scores and the school district's rankings have risen, so has the recognition that Luther Burbank School District has received. The school district is now a school of choice in San Jose, California.

Luther Burbank School District is a center of activity and growth in the community. Local residents are continuously invited and involved in many aspects of the school district. Luther Burbank School District welcomes parent and community involvement in the education and activities of the school and English as a Second Language classes are provided to the community during the evening hours to more closely connect the residents of this culturally diverse neighborhood.

The school district utilizes innovative teaching methods that include technology in the classroom and current instructional materials. The school district focuses on the academic growth of their students so that they may make positive contributions to their community and to society.

I am hopeful that the innovative and exemplary model portrayed by the Luther Burbank School District remains in my congressional district and spreads to many other lucky neighborhoods in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING THE METROPOLITAN ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA ON THE HISTORIC OCCASION OF THE ENSHRINEMENT OF "OUR LADY OF CAMARIN"

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron and the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana on the occasion of the enshrinement of "Our Lady of Camarin" in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Our Lady of Camarin, "Santa Marian Kamalen" as she is known in the Chamorro language, is the Patroness of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana and of the Mariana Islands. I also congratulate the Guam chapters of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas who have taken an active interest in the cause of enshrinement and who are well represented in Washington for the ceremony on September 17, 2006.

The Santa Marian Kamalen is an important historic symbol of faith to the people of Guam and the Mariana Islands. The Santa Marian Kamalen statue, which arrived on Guam in the 17th century, was a significant part of the Spanish introduction of the Catholic faith on Guam and has been an enduring symbol of the growth of the Catholic Church in the Mariana Islands for the past three centuries. The Santa Marian Kamalen statue is representative of the resilience of the Chamorro people